GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1157
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
SETTING UP OF NATIONAL DRUG AUTHORITY
Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up the National Drug Authority to regulate the drug industries of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or likely to be taken to monitor the drugs and safeguard the interests of the consumers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a): There is a proposal to set up a Central National Drug Authority of India (CDAI) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) The Government of India had constituted an expert Committee under the cairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) to suggest measures to improve the control and management of drug administration in the country and to review the issues of drug safety, efficacy etc. The major recommendations of this expert committee were agreed by the Government of India. Some of these recommendations include higher penalties for manufacture, sale and distribution of spurious, counterfeit drugs and creation of an independent Central Drug Authority. The draft Bill amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to comply with the aforesaid recommendations is under finalisation.

(C): The manufacture and sale of drugs are controlled under various provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules to ensure availability of safe and affective drugs to the consumers. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also initiated a Pharmacovigilance Programme to monitor drug quality & adverse reactions; and a Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes to raise the consumer awareness in regard to drug safety.